

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00057 241341Z

46

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0045

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 00057

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

1. I HAD HOPED TO DISCUSS LETTER RE SYRIA WITH FAHMY TODAY AFTER I HAD TAKEN CODEL OBEY TO MEET WITH HIM, BUT DECIDED AT THE END OF THAT MEETING THAT THE TIME WAS UNPROPITIOUS TO DO SO. CODEL WAS SENSIBLE AND OBVIOUSLY SEEKING INFORMATION. IN CONTRAST, OUR FRIEND ISMAIL WAS AT HIS WORST -- ILLOGICAL, ASSERTIVE, DIGRESSIVE, CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTING QUESTIONS, AND FULL OF NON-SEQUITURS. CODEL THOUGHT HE WAS FLIPPENT AND MIGHT BE "PLAYING WITH THEM."

I INTERVENED NUMEROUS TIMES TO GET HIM TO LISTEN TO QUESTIONS AND ANSWER THEM, BUT FAHMY WAS IN ONE OF HIS UNRESTRAINABLE MOODS.

BY THE END OF AN HOUR AND A HALF SESSION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT

A) THERE WAS NO POINT TALKING TO FAHMY ABOUT SYRIA IN THE MOOD HE WAS IN AND B) I HAD A DAMAGE LIMITATION JOB TO DO WITH CODEL.

I THEREFORE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN TO THEM BEFORE THEY LEFT FOR CAIRO THAT FAHMY IS CURRENTLY UNDER AN INTENSE STRAIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND IS ALSO STILL RECOVERING FROM FLU. I POINTED OUT HE IS ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE PRO-AMERICAN POLICY AND DESERVES CREDIT FOR MUCH THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. I HOPE THIS HELPS AT LEAST A BIT IN SOFTENING THE NEGATIVE IMPRESSION HE MADE ON THE THREE CONGRESSMEN. FORTUNATELY, SADAT WAS AT HIS BEST AND DID A SUPERB JOB IN THE HOUR AND A

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HALF WE SPENT WITH HIM. ALL THREE CAME AWAY WITH A VERY POSITIVE

IMPRESSION FROM THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND, HOPEFULLY,
THAT WILL BE THEIR DOMINANT IMPRESSION.

2. SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT I WILL SEE FAHMY LATER TODAY,
I INTEND TO TACKLE HIM ON THE SYRIAN MATTER ON THE WAY TO THE
AIRPORT TOMORROW TO MEET YOU.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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